

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 8, No. 43

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR

October 27, 2006

HOME AT LAST

More than 130 Miramar Marines return home

FAMILY WAITED TO SEE THEIR MARINES AFTER MORE THAN 7 MONTHS FORWARD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. FRANCES L. GOCH
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent



Sgt. Mario Portillo

Right Members of Sgt. Mario Portillo's family await anxiously on the tarmac Oct. 21. More than 15 of his family members were at the home coming wearing custom-made red shirts bearing his picture and a welcome home message. Portillo was among 136 Marines to return home.



"It feels great to have her back in the states and safe finally."

Ryan Stone

husband of Cpl. Megan Stone

More than 130 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Marines arrived here early morning October 21, returning after a seven-month deployment.

While forward, service members with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 were the heavy lift asset, supporting Multi National Forces Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Tension was high as the crowd waited to see their loved ones emerge from the plane.

Wives and families made casual conversation to pass the time, until finally there were screams of

GO TO **HOME**, PAGE 10

Train like you fight

Fire fighters hone aircraft fire skills

LANCE CPL. GEORGE L. PAPASTRAT
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marines from Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, conducted a day of simulation training Oct. 17 here to ensure they are ready for anything on a moments notice.

The training, consisting of spot fires and rescue procedures, was conducted on the airfield both day and night, explained Staff Sgt.

GO TO **ARFF**, PAGE 3

Military policeman follows family's footsteps

LANCE CPL. FRANCES L. GOCH
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

For many people when they are growing up base their dreams and goals on their role models. Some have grown up wanting to be fire fighters, doctors, lawyers and so on. One military policeman here is no exception.

Cpl. Paul A. Williams Sr., patrolman, Special Reaction Team, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Provosts Marshal's Office, comes from a family with generations of military and says his family always knew he would join. But while his father and mother, and even his grandfathers, chose to join the

GO TO **WILLIAMS**, PAGE 8

SPORTS| MCAS MIRAMAR FALCONS

FALCONS ROLL OVER
ROUGH RIDERS IN
FIRST GAME OF PLAYOFFS

SEE PAGE 9



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Domestic Violence Awareness

Miramar, DoD focus on raising Domestic Violence awareness

STORY BY MARY LECOMPTE
VICTIM ADVOCATE/MCAS MIRAMAR



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Activities take place every year during October in order to raise awareness concerning Domestic Violence. This year has been highlighted even more by the Department of Defense.

The DoD will be conducting a year long campaign to get important information out on this subject.

The DoD also partnered with the National Domestic Violence hotline and sent out brochures and materials to all the bases on this topic.

Their materials help to point out behaviors which can lead to an abusive relationship. It is helpful to know exactly what defines domestic violence and its identifiable cycles and finally how to get help.

The DoD has set up new regulations where under certain circumstances partner abuse can be reported and kept confidential.

Domestic Violence is physically or emotionally harmful acts between husbands and wives or between other individuals in intimate relationships. Domestic violence can include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Men and women of every race, socio-economical status, and educational background can become victims of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence is a serious problem and should not be treated lightly. In many instances the abuse starts with less serious offences but can escalate over time if the behavior is permitted.

Often times in abusive relationships the violent behavior follows a pattern.

This is called the Cycle of Violence.

There are three stages in the cycle starting with "The Tension Building Stage." In this stage it may feel that you cannot please your partner no matter how hard you try. Yelling and criticism are often characteristics of this phase.

The next stage is "The Explosion." During this phase the actual violence occurs, be it physical, emotional, or sexual. The last stage is the "I'm Sorry Stage."

In this stage the batterer may show signs of remorse or promise that it will never happen again. It is essential to know how to protect yourself during all three stages. In the first stage do not try to reason with your batterer. It is impossible to reason with someone who does not want to change.

During the "Explosion Stage" try to keep yourself as safe as possible by either leaving the situation or trying to find a safer area in the house.

During the "I'm Sorry Stage" the situation may be calm for a while but then the cycle starts over. No matter what the batterer may say, without professional help the violence will happen again.

The Department of Defense has released new policy guidelines for Domestic Abuse. The Restricted Reporting policy affords victims a new option for confidential disclosure of abuse and to receive support services.

Under this new policy, adult victims of domestic abuse may receive medical treatment and victim advocacy services without requiring notification to law enforcement or unit commanders.

To be eligible for restricted reporting, the victim must disclose to one of the following individuals: Victim Advocate, Victim Advocate Supervisor or Healthcare

Provider (except in the State of California). Disclosure of abuse to anyone other than those listed above may result in command notification and law enforcement investigation.

In cases where a victim elects restricted reporting, the confidential communications will be suspended under certain circumstances.

This includes times when the victim authorizes disclosure in writing, when there is serious or imminent threat to health or safety, or when child abuse is suspected.

It is important to know that you have help available here on MCAS, Miramar. Specially trained Victim Advocates will respond to incidents of domestic violence or sexual assault 24 hours a day, and may also be contacted during working hours by anyone with questions or concerns.

A Victim advocate:

- Provides emotional support
- Advises victims of their rights
- Explores options and resources
- May accompany and support victims through medical and legal proceedings

Links a victim to military and civilian resources and services

Classes are also offered at the MCCS Counseling Center which help prevent Domestic Violence.

If you or someone you know needs help, please contact the Counseling Center at 858-577-6585 or the Victim Advocates' office at 858-577-7285.

After hours, contact the local Military Police who will refer you to a Victim Advocate for assistance and support.

All services are confidential within the limits of Marine Corps' policy.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in building 5632 on Bauer Road and coordinates regularly scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 858-577-1333.

Sunday:

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11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

Wednesday:

7 p.m. Baptist service

Monday-Friday:

11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

Jewish:

7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD

7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Sempertoons

by Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



Dexter Williford, assistant section leader, ARFF.

"The purpose of this training was to ensure all of the Marines, especially the new ones, are prepared for anything," Williford said. "We do a lot of simulation training, most of the time we try to save it for when the airfield is closed, like on the weekends."

The day of training began with spot-fire drills.

Spot fires, which are burning flames on or around the aircraft, must be extinguished as quickly as possible, explained Williford, a Bainbridge, Ga., native.

When doing spot drills, Marines practice using the correct spray technique while maintaining constant communication. The fire crew's goal is to spray the water so the flames won't push through to the second crew on the other side of the aircraft, explained Williford.

"It's hard to communicate (when working) because of the gear and loud noises," explained the section leader. "There is

debris all over the place, and possibly ordinance we have to worry about."

As the day went on, the ARFF Marines quickly moved from training on an F/A-18 Hornet with spot fires, to a downed C-130 crash set up with victims scattered aboard the aircraft.

While some Marines tackled the spot fires, others were practicing victim rescues. They practiced entering the downed aircraft and retrieving crew members.

The Marines entered the aircraft and assessed the scene, triaging patients to see

who is the highest priority. In a training environment they use 200 pounds dummies and remove from the crash site.

"I thought everything went well," said Lance Cpl. Thomas Blanchard, a crash crewman, ARFF. "It helped us build our teamwork skills."

These Marines are highly trained firefighters who specialize in the extinguishing of aircraft," said Williford. "While the Marines are training, they have to constantly think safety. No crash is the same. It is all a judgment call to see how the scene is worked."

The training was not only suc-

cessful, but necessary, explained Lance Cpl. Ken Finley.

"The training we do is imperative in our line of work," said Finley, a Sidney, N.Y., native. "At the end of the day, (most people) go home and relax, but as ARFF Marines we are here, waiting, to ensure everyone on the flight line is safe."



The air pack and gear of an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marine lay on the deck outside of a C-130 plane during a rescue training evolution Oct. 17. ARFF Marines constantly train to keep their skills ready. Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

"While the Marines are training they have to constantly think safety. No crash is the same. It is all a judgment call to see how the scene is worked."

Staff Sgt. Dexter Williford
assistant section leader, ARFF



Marines from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, test their hose nozzles Oct. 17. The Marines conducted a routine training evolution to ensure their firefighting and rescue skills were at the top level. Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

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Marines enhance safety with advanced training

Army assists training Marine refuelers at Al Asad

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. BRANDON L. ROACH | 3RD MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq – Throughout the first two weeks of October, Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 received training from their Army counterparts to better understand the fueling operations of the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Upon arriving at the air base in September, the bulk fuels specialists with MWSS-273, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), realized that in order to maintain safety standards and maximize efficiency, they needed more training.

After the need for training was established, the Marines contacted the Army's 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd MAW, which has been stationed here since February.

"The Marines identified a lack of training," said Army Maj. Edward C. Cox, company commander, E Company, 2/224. "We are helping them out by training them so we can ensure safety standards are maintained."

One of the biggest reasons the Marines received the training is because Marine refuelers don't usually connect the fuel lines to the aircraft, but according to Army regulations, members of the flight crew cannot do it either.

"The Marines usually hand off the fuel line to someone with

the crew of the aircraft," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Arturo R. Robinson, E Co. platoon sergeant, 2/224. "This can pose a threat to the mission if the crewmember happens to spill fuel on him or herself, because



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 listen to Army Staff Sgt. Arthur L. Williams stress the importance of a good grounding point when fueling a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter at Al Asad, Iraq, Oct. 16.

according to naval air regulations, if a crewmember is doused with a petroleum product, the mission must be cancelled."

"Our main mission is to keep the air crew ready to fly at all times," said Cox. "This also puts the (bulk fuels specialist) in total control in case there is ever a problem during the fueling process."

Although the Marines go to the same school that the soldiers go to, the new advancements in technology and equipment on the Blackhawk requires up-to-date training.

The training sessions cover everything from grounding the helicopter to actually pumping the fuel into the birds. "This training helps us familiarize ourselves with the hazards we can encounter when refueling the UH-60 helicopter," said Staff Sgt. Sylvia Dotson, fuel farm chief, MWSS-273.

The overall purpose of the training is to give the crew of the aircraft the opportunity to pay attention to their aircraft and give the fuelers the chance to be more aware of their operations, according to Robinson.

Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marines and soldiers



Army Sgt. 1st Class Arturo R. Robinson explains the inner workings of the fuel box on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 at Al Asad, Iraq, Oct. 16. Robinson is a native of Newport News, Va., and the Echo Company platoon sergeant, 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward). The Marines with MWSS-273 operate under the umbrella of Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd MAW.

have worked together to complete the mission that has been given to them. "This training gives us the opportunity to work side-by-side with the Marines," said Army Staff Sgt. Arthur L. Williams, E Co. section sergeant, 2/224. "We

are learning just as much from them throughout this training as they are from us."

"Overall this training is a big win for aviation safety and for the camaraderie that is being built between our soldiers and the Marines," said Cox.

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Lt. Col. Robert P. Cote relinquished his command Oct. 20 to Lt. Col. Rick A. Uribe during a change of command ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Lt. Col. Uribe transferred from Headquarters Marine Corps, Department of Aviation, Washington DC, as the KC-130 Requirements Officer (APW-61). Lt. Col. Cote is slated to deploy with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 as the Detachment commanding officer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. *Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat*

LANCE CPL. SCOTT T. MCADAM JR.
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Semper Fit recently released the 2007 All Marine sports teams calendar. Marines interested in taking a shot at a spot on an All Marine team roster will find the dates provided by the calendar useful as they start their application and training processes.

On the calendar, initially released in late September, Semper Fit identified tentative dates for All Marine Trials for soccer, cross country, wrestling, basketball, volleyball, softball, golf, and rugby. The calendar also identifies those sports that fill rosters only through the submission of the application form.

"The dates are considered tentative until the exact dates of the CISM (Conseil International Du Sports Militaire) are announced," said Robert Stopp, athletic director, Marine Corps Community Service, here. The CISM competitions wrap up the season for those sports to which they apply and is the largest authority for military sports activity in the world.

Despite tenta-

tive dates, seemingly long periods of time until trials, and some sports with rolling application acceptance, Stopp recommends Marines interested in submitting a resume or trying out for a team get the process started early.

"Knowing the dates allows athletes to build up stats and ensure they have what it takes," said Stopp. "Community leagues are a really good way to build up stats and competition information."

Submitting recommendations from high school or college coaches is an option for athletes who recently competed at this level in their sport of choice," according to Stopp. "But for those who have been away from high school or college a little longer, letters of recommendation from civilian league managers and coaches that highlight an athlete's strengths can mean a lot in the decision making process."

Stopp added that the selection boards for All Marine teams look, first and foremost, for application

packages completed properly and neatly. He also encourages Marines to put down as much information as possible.

However, even the best resume won't earn an athlete a spot on an All Marine roster if the athlete's command will not approve participation.

Once an athlete has command approval to participate they should visit their installation athletic director. For Marine athletes not stationed on an installation or currently deployed, all sports review application packages. Review boards will review packages and can invite athletes to participate in All Marine Trial events based solely on information provided in their applications.

For more information about All Marine sports teams and to see the 2007 calendar, visit <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/sports/hf/index.cfm> or contact Robert Stopp at (858) 577-4127.

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ARFF mascot, Sparky, autographs a shirt for a special visitor from Koru Care during their tour of the station.



Jerome, a 10-year-old boy from Christchurch New Zealand's Koru Care, an organization similar to the U.S. Make-a-Wish Foundation, shows off his hands after trying on a pair of gloves at Miramar's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting. Jerome was among 22 children who spent the day at Miramar touring the station as part of their annual, two-week trip to Southern California.



Gendi, a Koru Care child, gets a little help cracking the agitation whip from Sgt. Jeffery Lindstrand, a military dog handler, during a K-9 demonstration.

Miramar Marines make dreams come true

New Zealand children experience visit of a lifetime aboard air station

Samantha, a twelve-year-old girl from Christchurch, New Zealand, couldn't help but smile as a couple of Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 helped her out of her wheelchair and up the stairs to a seat inside their squadron ready room.

Once inside, Samantha and 22 other terminally-ill children from Christchurch's Koru Care, an organization similar to the U.S. Make-a-Wish Foundation, giggled with excitement as the squadron passed out personalized patches made especially for them.

Every year Koru Care makes a special visit here during their annual two-week tour of Southern California. This year, Oct. 4 quickly became a day that many of the children would never forget.

Their visit included a tour of HMH-462, a K-9 demonstration, picnic at the park, a hands-on interaction with Miramar's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting unit and a tour of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum.

"Most of these children have never met a Marine or have toured a military installation before," said Gavin Laing, trip coordinator for Koru Care. "This visit may be their only chance to come out and experience these activities."

Each year the volunteers at Koru Care spend countless hours raising funds and sponsoring charity events in an effort to pay for each child's trip to America.

Bearing this in mind, the Marines gave the kids VIP treatment at each stop, trying their best

to make it a special day for each of them.

"It feels great to be a part of their experience at Miramar," said Cpl. Angel Quinonez, military police working dog handler, MCAS Miramar. "Making their day better was great and I think both the Marines and kids had a lot of fun."

After the demo, Quinonez and the other handlers spent some one-on-one time with each child, drawing paw prints on their shirts, signing autographs, taking photos, and letting the children try on and play with their training gear.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Jason Zimmermann, training chief, ARFF, MCAS Miramar, the interaction between the children and Marines is priceless.

"This was one of the best demonstrations that we have ever had at ARFF," said Zimmermann, a Harvard, Ill., native. "We brought out our mascot, Sparky, and the kids really enjoyed that. Also, I've never had anyone ask for my autograph before. It makes you feel proud of what you do. I hope the kids left with good memories."

On the bus ride home, Samantha and the rest of the children couldn't stop talking about Sparky and all of the other Marines that they encountered during their special day.

"I don't really have a favorite activity," said Samantha. "I had fun at each stop. Going inside a helicopter, meeting Sparky, trying on the fire fighter and bite suits and talking to the friendly Marines was a lot of fun, and I'm really sad that we have to leave. I will remember this day forever."

"Going inside a helicopter, meeting Sparky, trying on the fire fighter and bite suits... and talking to friendly Marines was a lot of fun, and I'm really sad that we have to leave. I will remember this day forever.."

SAMANTHA
New Zealand

Every year Koru Care makes a special visit to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar during their annual, two-week tour of Southern California. This year Oct. 4 quickly became a day that many of the children would never forget.



Cpl. Paul Williams Sr. comes from a family dedicated to military service. Photo by Lance Cpl. Frances L. Goch

WILLIAMS FROM PAGE 1

Army, he chose to follow his great uncle's footsteps and joined the Marine Corps to become a military police Marine.

"We weren't the least bit surprised when he told us he was joining the Marines," said Carolyn Omoruy, Williams' mother. "I think he got the idea from his father and I. We would show him pictures of us all the time and we were always in uni-

form. I am very proud of him, he is doing what he loves."

This Kansas City, Mo., native, hopes to complete a 20-year career in the Marine Corps. Originally, Williams couldn't get the military occupational specialty military policeman because there weren't any school seats open. His diligence and hard work through boot camp paid off, he graduated as the company honor graduate. His success earned him the opportunity to choose the MOS he wanted, and he jumped on the chance to become a military policeman. After MOS school, he continued to strive to be better and eventually become part of SRT.

"Becoming SRT was one of my main goals. I wanted to be on any SWAT team possible," Williams said. "There is something about the excitement of kicking down a door or climbing down the side of a building out a window that I love."

Being part of SRT is often an adrenalin rush and a fast paced job. Marine Corps Air Station

Miramar's SRT trains for dangerous, and potentially deadly, situations. The team trains over and over to make sure they are ready for things like a hostage situation or armed standoffs and they must perform without mistakes.

"I do get kind of nervous because I've got a family," said Williams who has been married to his wife, Julie, for four years. They have two daughters Whitney, 11, Jada, 6, and one son, Paul Jr, 3. "As long as the whole team comes out together everything went right, that's all that matters."

Williams job requires him to face extreme situations, but this isn't the only place this adventure-seeking-Marine gets an adrenalin rush.

Williams has played for the MCAS Miramar Falcons for the past three seasons, and also has a penchant for motorcycle riding and skydiving.

"My friends are puzzled on why I am so intent on jumping out of a perfectly good plane, but I love it" Williams smiled. "I

hope to be able to go to jump school when I reenlist."

Although Williams could be making more money out in the civilian world, his dedication to the Corps and his Marines is what makes him want to reenlist.

"I love the Marines and I love PMO," said Williams. "I get the best of both worlds. I get to be involved with law enforcement and I get to be in the military. Either way I'm doing what I want to do."

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Falcons roll over Rough Riders in playoffs opener, 31-6

The Miramar Falcons advance to the championship in a win over SOI

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. TAYLOR POULIN | MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons crushed the School of Infantry Rough Riders 31-6 in the first game of the playoffs in the Camp Pendleton Tackle Football League.

"I told you back in June that I believed in you," said Falcons head coach Bennis Branch during his pre-game speech. "I sincerely believe that we can not only take this championship, but also be the best in the West."

The Falcons had first possession but couldn't convert their drives and turned it over on downs.

The Riders took over only to face the stingy defense with returning linebacker Kevin Evans. The Falcons awesome defense showed once again, shutting down the offense.

The Falcons took over on their own 30-yard line with 2:15 left in the first quarter.

With no secrets, no trick plays, and just smash-mouth football, the Falcons used six different running backs, and rumbled their way up field. A 35-yard gain placed the Falcons in the red zone and on next play, quarterback Jaime Sales connected with receiver Paul Williams for the touchdown. The score stood 7-0, Falcons, with 34 seconds left in the quarter.

A gutsy call on fourth-and-long by the Rough Riders gave the ball back to the Falcons on the Rough Rider 22-yard line. The Falcons could only travel 12 yards before turning the ball over.

On the next play the Rough Riders fumbled on their own 14-yard line.

Two plays later, Falcons running back Cordero Davis took in a 12-yard sweep, making the score 13-0 with 7:32 left in the second quarter.

The Rough Riders next drive ended before it could start when Falcons cornerback, Bershard Tillman intercepted The Rough Rider pass.

The Falcons took over and went to work with their running game.

Williams came up with a beautiful catch to put the Falcons inside the five-yard line. Running back Jeremy Bacon punched in a 3-yard plunge, making the score 19-0 with 4:46 left in the second quarter.

The Riders were still looking for an offense and managed to move up

field with a few quick slants and quarterback sneaks. They managed to move into the Falcons red zone, the Riders could not get in the end zone before the half ended.

The Rough Riders started the second half as they ended the first. Short passes chopped away at yards until they once again gave up possession. On a deep pass, Falcons safety Mike Olsen snatched the ball, returning it to the Falcons 27-yard line.

The Falcons offensive line, led by Gregory Corrales, totally dominated the Rough Riders defensive line, allowing Williams to break free on a reverse and put 6 more on the score, pushing their lead to 25-0 with 4:49 left in the third.

The Riders finally seemed to show some motivation and moved down field on their next drive. The Rough Riders running back finally capped off their drive with a score,

making the numbers 25-6 with 8:05 left in the fourth.

Davis converted on a huge fourth and very long when he scampered 40 yards to put the Falcons offense in the red zone. Davis capped off the drive with a 5-yard score. It was 31-6, Falcons, with 2:30 left to play.

The Rough Riders offense moved down field quickly in the hopes of scoring before the game ended. Riders quarterback fumbled the ball and was recovered by defensive lineman Alexander Gerondakis. With no one around to stop him, he looked sure to score but could not seem to keep his feet and fell short of the 6-point paradise.

Sales knelt on the ball to end the game and send the Falcons to the championship.

The Falcons will play for the championship Nov. 7 at the Camp Pendleton field at 7:15 p.m.



Running back Carlos McCown catches a pass during a playoff game against the Rough Riders Oct. 23 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Falcons linebacker Tim Craig drops back in coverage during the first playoff game against the Rough Riders Oct. 23. The Falcons advanced to the championship game slated for Nov. 7.

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AMU



BASE MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday:	6:30 p.m. Invincible (PG)
	9:00 p.m. Idlewild (R)
Saturday:	6:30 p.m. Crossover (PG-13)
	9:00 p.m. The Wicker Man (PG-13)
Sunday:	1:00 p.m. *How To Eat Fried Worms (PG)
	6:30 p.m. *World Trade Center (PG-13)
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m. Crank (R)
Thursday:	1:30 p.m. Halloween Happenings - Ronald McDonald
	2:00 p.m. Monstor House (PG)
	6:30 p.m. *Beerfest (R)

* Indicates the movie's last showing

Idlewild

A musical set in the Prohibition-era American South, where a speakeasy performer and club manager Rooster (Big Boi) must contend with gangsters who have their eyes on the club while his piano player and partner Percival (Andre Benjamin) must choose between his love, Angel (Paula Patton) or his obligations to his father (Ben Vereen).

Crossover

A naturally talented basketball player, Noah Cruise is determined to become a doctor using his basketball scholarship to UCLA pre-med, rather than succumb to the lure of former sports agent Vaughn and go for the NBA. His best friend, the buddy that took the fall for him and did the time for an assault charge, Tech, also an outstanding basketball player, has less lofty ambitions: he wants to get his GED and win an underground street ball game against arrogant rival, Jewelz. Their lives change drastically when they both fall in love with two local girls, Vanessa Lilly and Eboni Jackson, and take a fateful trip out of L.A. together.

HOME

FROM PAGE 1

excitement and welcome as the Marines started down the stairway of the aircraft.

"I just want her off that plane," said Ryan Stone waiting anxiously to catch a glimpse of his wife, Cpl. Megan Stone. "She left a month after we got married, so this will be the first time I've seen her since we got married. It feels great to have her back in the states and safe finally."

Family members searched frantically through the viewfinders of their camcorders and digital cameras to find their Marines as they came off the plane.

"I am just so glad to be home with my wife," said Lance Cpl. Jason Martin, maintenance administrator, HMH-361, while he hugged his wife who ran to greet him. "It's great to see all of the people to welcome us home. We even have the band here."

Sgt. Mario Portillo, airframe mechanic, HMH-361, was overcome by a sea of red shirts bearing his picture and a welcome home message when his family finally spotted him.

As every family found their Marine, relief and happiness filled the crowd with tears, smiles and hugs.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Filed Taxes?

Marines returning from deployment can have their taxes done at the Tax Center on base. Located across the street from Dental in building 6250, the office is open from 8-11 a.m., and from 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Service members who owe money, or think they owe money must file their taxes within 180 days of returning home.

For more information, contact 858-577-1656.

Job Fair

The Noncommissioned Officers Association will host a National Job Fair on Nov. 8 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The job fair is free and open to the public. Dress appropriately to impress your hopefully new employer.

For more information, contact Tony White at 1-800-662-2620 ext. 222.

Uniform Change

The winter uniform period will commence with the end of daylight savings on Oct. 29. Beginning on Monday, sleeves will be worn down with the Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform.

Recycle Day

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Recycling Center will host a 5K Fun Run/Walk for America Recycles Day Nov. 15 at the new PFT course. Registration will be from 6:30 - 6:45 a.m. The run/walk will begin at 7:00 a.m. All participants will receive a free T-shirt and the top male/female finishers will receive a pack.

For more information, contact 858-577-8873.

Spooky Spinning

The Miramar Sports Complex will have a spooky spinning class on Tuesday. Join us for the scariest ride of your life. Arrive early to reserve your seat.

For more information, contact the complex at 858-577-4129.

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